

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) helps states make child care more affordable for working parents and supports improvements in the quality of child care and after-school programs. Under the CCDBG, each state is able to set its own goals and priorities for the funds, and can fund a wide range of activities, including direct service, resource and referral, licensing and monitoring, grants and loans to help providers meet licensing standards, and funds to improve compensation.

The Child Care Quality Improvement Act of 1998 will enhance a state's ability to improve the quality of child care. The Child Care Quality Improvement Act increases the CCDBG and designates those funds for quality initiatives. Quality Improvement Grants would be available to states that establish quantifiable goals for child care improvements in six areas: increased caregiver training, expanded licensing standards, reduced numbers of unlicensed facilities, increased monitoring and enforcement, reduced caregiver turnover, and higher levels of facility accreditation. Quality Improvement Grant funds can be used for state and local activities that help realize state goals for improvement in each of those areas.

The Child Care Quality Improvement Act also establishes an Advisory Commission on Quality Child Care to examine issues affecting child care quality and develop and make recommendations for feasible goals and targets for state child care programs and national standards for quality of care. In addition, it requires the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a consumer education campaign to promote informed child care choices.

The need for quality, affordable child care is a daily reality for millions of America's working families. Every child has incredible potential, and there is nothing more satisfying than seeing a child learn and develop. Parents need safe, reliable care for their children while they are at work. Children need quality early learning experiences that help them develop to their full potential and enter school ready to learn.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in support of the Child Care Quality Improvement Act of 1998. We must seize the opportunity to make an important investment in America's children by ensuring and improving the quality of child care.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
GENERAL DANIEL SMITH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a great leader, General Daniel Smith, and to celebrate the 250th occasion of his birth. On October 17, 1998, he will be remembered for his contributions in the westward movement of our country's history at his home "Rock Castle" in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

General Daniel Smith was born in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1748, and educated at William and Mary University. In 1773, at the age of twenty-five, he was appointed deputy surveyor of Augusta County, thus beginning his career as a great leader.

After serving in a variety of different military and political offices for 12 years, General Daniel Smith emigrated with his family, in 1785, to the Cumberland settlement. Tennessee has been his home ever since.

General Daniel Smith in every way embodied the spirit and courage of the early frontiersman. In his military career, he fought for independence and supported the creation of the new United States. Politically, Smith realized the importance of states' rights. Some of his accomplishments include attending the convention to ratify the United States Constitution, making the first map of Tennessee, serving in the U.S. Senate from 1805-1809, and negotiating two treaties with the Cherokees.

General Daniel Smith made many contributions to the state of Tennessee and to our Nation. He was a true leader of his time, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to a fine leader, and honor him for all that he did for his country. He truly made the people of Tennessee proud.

THE WAXMAN-HATCH ACT OF 1984

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, fourteen years ago, Congress enacted the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984, better known as the Waxman-Hatch Act. As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Health and Environment, I was the law's primary sponsor in the House, and my friend Senator ORRIN HATCH of Utah was the primary sponsor in the other body.

I am very proud of the Act. Its success has truly exceeded my expectations. The Act balanced the interests of the brandname drug industry, which gained patent term extensions to restore time expended obtaining FDA approval, and the generic drug industry, which obtained clear and fair statutory standards for the timely approval of their products.

As a result, generic drugs have saved American consumers and the Federal government billions of dollars. Today, America has a uniquely thriving and competitive generic drug industry. At the same time, the brandname drug industry has prospered like never before, posting record profits while tripling its research and development spending in the past ten years.

One of the most significant changes under the 1984 law was the creation of an exemption from patent infringement for tests and other activities conducted for the purposes of obtaining FDA approval. The exemption was created to overturn the ruling in Roche versus Bolar, which held that uses of a patented drug to prepare a generic drug application to the FDA were infringing. Since its enactment, the courts have interpreted this exemption as applying to prescription drugs, biologic drugs, medical devices, as well as food and color additives.

Recently, a number of parties have raised issues they wish the Congress to consider regarding the Act and its operation. Among these is the impact of applying the Bolar exemption to the biotechnology industry. This is an issue which has evoked strong views on both sides. Certainly, Congress should under-

stand all of the implications for the industry's competitiveness, medical research, drug prices and consumer access. Producing breakthrough medicines and enhancing our global competitiveness, the biotechnology industry is of critical importance to American consumers. Developing these products—and making them available and affordable to American consumers—is crucial.

The Congress should be fully aware of the current impact of the Waxman-Hatch Act. Its contributions have been significant. Examination of any suggested changes should be undertaken with care and a complete understanding of the consequences for all of the important interests served by the Act. After all, the reason the Act has succeeded in helping consumers is because it strikes a careful balance between promoting innovation and ensuring that consumers have timely access to affordable medicines.

With the Congress due to adjourn shortly, I think it is important to understand fully the issues which have been raised concerning implementation of the Waxman-Hatch Act. I look forward to reviewing the positions of all interested parties. Congress must ensure that the Act's careful balance of interests is maintained by observing the Hippocratic admonition, "First, do no harm."

ADDRESS BY SECRETARY OF
STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT
TO THE U.S.-RUSSIA BUSINESS
COUNCIL

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I commend to Members' attention an excellent speech on U.S. policy toward Russia given by Secretary Albright on October 2, 1998. Secretary Albright correctly stresses the importance of U.S.-Russian relations and the fact that Russia's evolution will be a long-term process. The Secretary rightly argues that, while Russia must respect basic laws of economics, solutions to Russia's problems will not work unless they have popular support. I applaud Secretary Albright for a very insightful speech.

SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE K.
ALBRIGHT'S ADDRESS TO THE U.S.-RUSSIAN
BUSINESS COUNCIL

Thank you Ambassador Strauss for that introduction. As our nation's first Ambassador to a democratic Russia, the experience, perspective and authority you bring to the subject at hand are truly unmatched. I am glad to see Gene Lawson here—he and I started our PhD's at Columbia on the same day.

And I'm very glad to see in this audience some of the old Russia hands who treated me to a stimulating dinner seminar two nights ago. Today they're going to hear me cribbing their ideas—shamelessly.

Ambassador Vorontsov, distinguished guests: I am happy to be in Chicago and delighted to address a group that shared President Clinton's conviction that what happens in Russia matters profoundly to our security and prosperity. Let me now invite you all to sit back, digest your lunch, and formulate some polite, easy questions to ask me after my speech.

When I think about the situation in Russia today, I can't help thinking about a story I